wish Bonny well in high school and beyond.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have the attached letter printed in the RECORD in support of my amendment No. 4064, to S. 2611.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, LOCAL 1812,
Washington, DC, May 24, 2006.

Hon. JAMES M. INHOFE,
Russell Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR INHOFE: As President of AFGE Local 1812, which represents employees at the Voice of America, I want to thank you for your support of making the English language the official language of the United States. Along with 86 percent of the general public, I agree with you on this issue. In this regard, I would also like to bring to your attention another issue that deals with the English language: as a result of the President's 2007 budget request process, the Broadcasting Board of Governors (BBG) plans to eliminate the Voice of America's global English radio broadcasts, VOA News Now.

Since you realize the importance of the English language to this country, I believe you will agree that it is critically important that we communicate with the rest of the world in our de facto national language, in particular because English is the language of business, higher education, youth, international diplomacy, aviation, the Internet, science, popular music, entertainment, and international travel. Other countries realize the importance of broadcasting in English. In fact, China, Russia, and France had all recently increased their international broadcasts in English.

I have attached an article by Georgie Anne Geyer regarding the proposed elimination of the VOA's global English broadcasts. I am hoping you can help stop this decision, which will negatively impact U.S. public diplomacy and America's position in the world.

Sincerely,

TIM SHAMBLE,
President.

AMBASSADOR MAX KAMPELMAN

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to call attention to an article published in the New York Times earlier this spring titled ''Bombs Away,'' authored by my dear friend, Ambassador Max Kampelman, and to offer it into the Senate record. Ambassador Kampelman exemplifies the American tradition of bipartisan service in foreign affairs. After coming to Washington as an aide to Senator Hubert Humphrey, he was appointed by President Carter to serve as Ambassador and head of the U.S. Delegation to the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe. President Reagan reappointed him to that position.

For his long and distinguished service, Ambassador Kampelman was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Clinton and the Presidential Citizens Medal from President Reagan.

Now Ambassador Kampelman has penned this insightful essay on the goal of globally eliminating all weapons of mass destruction. He believes that this goal is even important in an age of nuclear proliferation. He speaks from the heart and head and from his long experience as a hardnosed negotiator.

Ambassador Kampelman argues that we can reach this objective by distinguishing between what ''is'' and what ''ought'' to be, utilizing both realism and idealism. He recalls President Regan's successful deployment of the MX missile in Europe to deter Soviet aggression and his ability to recognize new openings, such as the willingness of Mikhail Gorbachev to negotiate steep reductions in nuclear arsenals—with the ultimate goal of eliminating nuclear weapons.

We all recognize that the total elimination of nuclear weapons is an extraordinarily difficult journey in a world where nuclear technology continues to spread and distinction between civilian and military nuclear development can be opaque. Nonetheless, it is important that we envision this worthy goal, however idealistic it may seem today. Ambassador Kampelman stared down the very real prospect of nuclear annihilation during the Cold War. With this article, he offers us hope that with wisdom and constancy, we have a chance to make this world safer for our children and grandchildren.

I therefore request unanimous consent that the attached article by Ambassador Max Kampelman be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 24, 2006]

BOMBS AWAY

(By Max M. Kampelman)

In my lifetime, I have witnessed two successful titanic struggles by civilized society against totalitarian movements, those against Nazi fascism and Soviet communism. As an arms control negotiator for Ronald Reagan, I had the privilege of playing a role—a small role—in the second of these triumphs.

Yet, at the age of 85, I have never been more worried about the future for my children and grandchildren than I am today. The number of countries possessing nuclear arms is increasing, and terrorists are poised to master nuclear technology with the objective of using those deadly arms against us.

The United States must face this reality head on and undertake decisive steps to prevent catastrophe. Only we can exercise the constructive leadership necessary to address the nuclear threat.

Unfortunately, the goal of globally eliminating all weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical and biological arms—is today not an integral part of American foreign policy; it needs to be put back at the top of our agenda.

Of course, there will be those who will argue against this bold vision. To these people I would say that there were plenty who argued against it when it was articulated by Mr. Reagan during his presidency.

I vividly recall a White House national security meeting in December 1985, at which the president reported on his first ''get acquainted'' summit in Geneva with President Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union the previous month.

Sitting in the situation room, the president began by saying: ''Maggie was right. We can do business with this man'' His reference to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher prompted nods of assent. Then, in a remarkably matter-of-fact tone, he reported that he had suggested to Mr. Gorbachev that their negotiations could possibly lead to the United States and the Soviet Union eliminating all their nuclear weapons.

When the president finished with his report, I saw uniform consternation around that White House table. The concern was deep, with a number of those present—from the secretary of defense to the head of central intelligence to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff—warning that our nuclear missiles were indispensable. The president listened carefully and politely without responding.

In fact, we did not learn where he stood until October 1986, at his next summit meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, which took place in Reykjavik, Iceland. There, in a stout waterfront house, he repeated to Mr. Gorbachev his proposal for the abolition of all nuclear weapons. Though no agreement was reached, the statement had been made.

More remarkably, it had been made by someone who understood the importance of nuclear deterrence.

In March 1985, before Reagan's first meeting with Mr. Gorbachev, I received a telephone call on a Friday from the president's chief legislative strategist telling me that the administration's request for additional MX missiles was facing defeat in the House of Representatives, and that the president wanted me to return from Geneva (where I was posted as his arms negotiator) for a brief visit. The hope was that I might be able to persuade some of the Democrats to support the appropriation.

I was not and never have been a lobbyist, but I agreed to return to Washington. I wanted my first meeting to be with the speaker of the House, Tip O'Neill, who, I was informed, was the leader of the opposition to the appropriation.

So there I was on Monday morning in O'Neill's private office. I briefed the speaker on the state of negotiations with the Soviets. I made the point that I too would like to live in a world without MX missiles, but that it was dangerous for us unilaterally to reduce our numbers without receiving reciprocal reductions from the Soviets. I then proceeded with my round of talks on the Hill.

At the end of the day, I met alone with the president and told him that O'Neill said we were about 30 votes short. I told the president of my conversation with the speaker and shared with him my sense that O'Neill was quietly helping us, suggesting to his fellow Democrats that he would not be unhappy if they voted against his amendment.

Without a moment's hesitation, the president telephoned O'Neill, and I had the privilege of hearing one side of this conversation between two tough Irishmen, cussing each other out, but obviously friendly and respectful.

I recall that the president's first words went something like this: ''Max tells me that you may really be a patriot. It's about time!'' Suffice it to say that soon after I returned to Geneva I learned that the House had authorized the MX missiles.

There is a moral to these stories: you can be an idealist and a realist at the same time.